

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT

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Trimble on Colorado River Expedition



David Vader(L), Northwestern Division and Dr. Michael (Sonny) Trimble proudly tout the Corps in the Canyon.

Dr. Michael K. Trimble, Chief, Curation and Archives Analysis Branch, was one of 16 government scientists chosen to participate in the Cultural Program of the Grand Canyon Research and Monitoring Center (GCMRE) Peer Evaluation Panel's ten-day historical-cultural scientific expedition on the Colorado River. The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), which operates the Glen Canyon Dam and is the lead federal agency responsible for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, co-sponsored the venture. The Panel addressed four topical areas: monitoring and compliance, archaeology, Native American participation, and geomorphology. One consideration of the expedition was establishment of a centralized and integrated data management of identification of historic properties – archaeological sites and place-specific elements of the traditional cultural landscape.

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Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R. Morrow



RANGER WILLIE B.SAFE

"I truly love my job..."

This July 31st brings to a close my first year with the St. Louis District as your commander. I truly love my job and thoroughly enjoy coming to work every day because of the wonderful people that make up the District Team. We are blessed with caring and dedicated employees that provide quality products to the customer and service to our Nation. Thank you for all you do everyday.

I want to take this opportunity on my first anniversary to announce the St. Louis District's official safety icon, Ranger Willie B. Safe. Willie was created at Lake Wappapello on April 20, 1996 by Rangers Kathy Dickson and Sarah (Burton) Woodward. He grew up in the southern regions of the state of Missouri spreading his word of safety to travelers, campers, swimmers and everyone who would listen. Ranger Willie B. Safe became a celebrity with his picture and message appearing on billboards, TV ads, local schools, coloring books and yes, even his very own songs. Willie developed many friendships over the years of spreading his message of safety. One of his best friends is Corkey the tugboat. Willie and Corkey have traveled across the district delighting school children with their antics while firmly teaching water safety. Willie and Corkey are assisted by The Safety Team, a group of savvy school age children who help in spreading the word on water safety. The Ranger Willie B. Safe Activity Book was created by SCEP Ranger Kathy Dickson. The Willie B. Safe songs were created by Administrative Assistant, Donna Adams. We can all be very proud of the hard work and dedication it took the team to create this safety image.

I am very proud to promote Willie to the status of official St. Louis Safety Icon. I hereby proclaim July 2000 as the official Ranger Willie B. Safe safety month and the first birthday of official St. Louis Safety Icon status. We will celebrate each July hereafter as Ranger Willie B. Safe month and the Esprit will run a monthly Ranger Willie B. Safe safety message. Have fun this summer and be safe!



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

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News Briefs

Lake Shelbyville:



Shelbyville Honors Lewis

This small town has a "down-home" way of showing appreciation to its townsfolk. Every two weeks a "home of" sign is placed beneath the welcome sign on the east and west entrances into Shelbyville. Persons chosen are individuals who have shown community support to the town. Recently Lake Shelbyville Project Manager Andrea Lewis had that honor. Shelbyville Mayor Bill Shoaff commented that, "Andrea Lewis has already shown great dedication to this community and we are happy to have her with us. I am looking forward to working with her in a way that will benefit the lake as well as the community at the same time."

Water Safety Weekend

Twelve participants attended the Personal Watercraft Workshop which was held at Dam West Ramp Point. This event was partnered by the Corps of Engineers with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The participants were educated on how to safely handle a PWC and the laws pertaining to PWCs. An obstacle and slalom course was set up for the students to practice on the water. Twenty beach-goers were treated to demonstrations before a heavy downpour ended the annual Agua-Fest held at Dam West beach.

Craft Show

story and photos by Leanne Cruitt

Now in its tenth year, the Lake Shelbyville Craft Show is one of the finest in the area. Twenty-eight craftsmen from as far north as Peoria, IL, as far south as Marion, IL, were on hand Father's Day weekend to show and sell their wares. Despite the rainy, cool weather approximately 1,700 visitors came out to participate at this one-day event. The Dam East picnic area, where the show is held, is a favorite among the craft vendors because of the shade and the magnificent view of the lake. The craft show is held in cooperation with the Kaskia-Kaw Rivers Conservancy.



Carlyle Lake:

Ninth Annual Great Kaskaskia River Duck Race

The Ninth Annual Duck Race was held for noon on July 15 at the Carlyle Lake Dam. Thousands of yellow rubber ducks were dumped off the top of the dam and raced to the finish line. The race is held every year by the Healthcare Foundation and it is their major fund-raiser. The money raised supports the Emergency Prescription Fund, educational programs, medical equipment and supplies for the people who have needs that are not

covered by insurance or government programs. First prize for the race was a new Pontiac Sunfire.

USFWS Tour of Kaskaskia River Oxbows

On 14 June 2000, Assistant Project Manager Dick Conner and Park Ranger Ron Sample from the Carlyle Lake project took Joyce Collins from US Fish & Wildlife Service, Environmental Projects Coordinator, on a tour of the proposed disposal sites for the environmental dredging contract on the Kaskaskia Oxbows. The purpose of the tour was to review environmental compliance on the proposed disposal sites. There are five oxbows scheduled to be dredged this summer. The sites that were reviewed were oxbows #12, 15, 16, 17 & 19. Mike Daily, Regulatory Division, was also present on the tour. Ms. Collins indicated that the tour was successful and she was satisfied with the sites selected for disposal. The remaining task to be completed is finalization of the Environmental Dredging contract. The target date for beginning dredging is mid-July.

Taylor Takes New Position

Long time Park Ranger Jackie Taylor, has been promoted to the Project Management Office in the St. Louis District. Jackie has worked as a park ranger for 11 years. She started as a student at Rend Lake and eventually transferred to Carlyle Lake for a permanent position. While at Carlyle Lake she was involved in the Interpretation & Outreach Program and the Recreation Facilities Program. Jackie worked at the Carlyle Project for nearly 5 years.



The new Campground Store is the most recent addition to Hazlet State Park located at Carlyle Lake in Carlyle, Illinois. The store, built by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, has been an instant success. This multi-purpose store provides ice, groceries, souvenirs, bait, restrooms, laundry facilities, and much more to the visitors of Hazlet State Park, the second busiest campground in the state of Illinois. The new store also functions as a location to rent out the 12 Carlyle Lakefront Cottages that are located at Hazlet State Park. In addition to the Cottages, Hazlet also offers 327 class A electric camp sites, 36 class C walk-in tent sites, and 2 rent-a-camp cabins. The Campground Store is centrally located in the park to provide convenience to visitors of all camping areas. Concessionaire Dick Pierson, who also operates the Carlyle Lakefront Cottages, runs the store. He has found that some items have become quick sellers, such as can openers, ponchos, and "smore baskets," which include enough graham crackers, chocolate, and marshmallows to make the perfect smore. Customers, who are thankful to have a place to buy any necessities that may have been left at home, have very well received the Campground Store. For more information about the Campground Store or the Carlyle Lakefront Cottages, call (618) 594-3386 or toll-free at (877) 342-8862.

Carlyle Lake-Norma Hall



Happy campers eager to take advantage of the new campground store at Hazlet State Park

Pesticides, fall plowing, a shortage of suitable nesting sites and nest robbing by predators are all factors which have negatively impacted the native Barn Owl.

Reintroducing birds to the area is a positive step to help the disappearing population.

New Mehrer Baby

Park Ranger Allen Mehrer and wife Doris, welcomed Nathan Cole to the family on June 8, 2000. Nathan weighed in at 8lbs. 2oz. Big sister Adrian is two years old.

Mark Twain Lake:

Barn Owls Released

Four barn owls were released recently at Mark Twain Lake. The reintroduction program is accomplished in cooperation with World Bird Sanctuary of St. Louis. The young birds were raised on project lands and released at the time they normally would have left the nest if raised by natural parents.

The Barn Owl is a threatened species that is a year round resident. They are highly nocturnal. They love open grasslands or croplands with scattered trees or buildings. Sometimes known as a "flying mouse trap" they are excellent hunters of mice, voles and shrews.





Wappapello Lake:

Valued Volunteers

Flower Bed at Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center



Marigolds, periwinkles and impatiens are among the brightly colored blooms greeting visitors to the Eagle Point Recreation Area and the Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center at Wappapello Lake. Local residents Barb Gray and Lois Curtios volunteered to design several flower beds in these areas. They shared their knowledge and expertise with the Wappapello Lake staff and planted a variety of bedding plants. They continue to volunteer their time to water and care for the flowers. Numerous compliments from the public concerning the beauty that these flower beds radiate have been overflowing. This successful Project is an example which shows that volunteers can make a difference.



Flower Bed at Eagle Point Recreation Area

Morrow and Feld Make Visit

Wappapello Lake staff recieved a weekend visit from Colonel Morrow and Wally Feld on 23 and 24 June. They got a first-hand look at the caliber of the Wappapello lake staff during their visit. Some of their activities included patrols (land and water) with visitor assistance park rangers (Michael Kuntz, Ira Tucker, Dennis Graves, and Becky Hays), contract inspections (SCEP Park Ranger Jon Summers), participation in employees safety tool box session (STEP Recreation Aide Jackie Hawthorn), interpretive pre-program critique (Interpretive Shop), and attendance at an interpretive program at the visitors' center.

Telling the Corps Story

The Interpretive Services and Outreach Program at Wappapello Lake was extremely busy telling the Corps of Engineers Story by presenting numerous Interpretive Programs during the months of May and June. 130 programs were given to 6307 students and visitors on and off-site.

The topics included Natural Resources Management, Wetlands, Water Safety (Ranger Willie B. Safe), Animal Adaptations, Snakes, Lyme Disease, History of Old Greenville and much more.

MCX Wins Department of Justice Award

A group of scientists representing the Curation and Archives Analysis Branch recently received a Certificate of Commendation from the Department of Justice, Environmental and Natural Resources Division, at a ceremony presided over by Attorney General Janet Reno. Lois J. Schiffer, Assistant Attorney General of the United States, presented the award. Recipients were Dr. Michael "Sonny" Trimble (Branch Chief), Natalie Drew (Archivist), Rhonda Lueck (Physical Anthropologist), Chris Pulliam (Archaeologist), and Terri Militello (Archaeologist). The citation reads: "For outstanding performance and invaluable assistance in support of the activities of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division". Congratulations, Sonny and crew for another job well done and another well-deserved award.



SCEP Ranger Kathy Dickson conducting an Animal Adaptation Program.



New employees

New Deputy For Small Business

Glenn L. Chatman brings over 25 years of broad and varied private and federal sector procurement and contracting experience to his new position as Deputy for Small Business. Glenn earned his BS degree in Business Administration from SIU, Edwardsville, and an MBA from Lindenwood University.

He began his government career in 1986 as a Supervisory Procurement Analyst for the US Army Record Personnel Center, was later promoted to Senior Procurement Analyst for the Logistics Systems Support Center (LSSC), and after outsourcing of that organization, accepted a Contract Specialist position at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) at Scott AFB, Ill.



Glenn and his wife, Pamela are the parents of four children. He spends his leisure time coaching his son's little league baseball team, fishing, and working on home projects. He is originally from Lovejoy, Illinois. Welcome aboard, Glenn. We wish you well.



Welcome Steve!

New full-time employee Steven Wagner has been a seasonal employee at Mark Twain Lake since 1983. Steve recently retired after 25 years as a Chemistry and Physics teacher with the Monroe City High School.

Shelbyville Dam Safety Training

by Travis Tutka

On July 20, the District staff conducted dam safety training for the Lake Shelbyville staff. This training is conducted at all of the district lakes every four years. The training focused on what historically has failed dams and advises the project staff of what to look for to gain additional time to enact repairs prior to failure or to provide more time to evacuate and minimize loss of life. The historical performance of Shelbyville Dam and lessons learned from other dams was discussed.

Did you know that the valley that Shelbyville Dam sits on is riddled with old abandoned coal mines? Did you know the soil design for Shelbyville Dam was modified during construction from all clay to clay mixed with sand and silt? Did you know that Shelbyville Dam experienced a slope stability problem shortly after construction?

All these things are true and Shelbyville Dam is still a very safe structure. The trivia tidbits mentioned above can be very valuable to emergency actions. Knowledge of past problems can greatly improve our response if the problem reoccurs (history repeats itself). Shelbyville Dam has not experienced any dam safety problems since the 1970 slope stability problem. This continuous excellent performance unfortunately breeds complacency. The Corps of Engineers fights this tendency in many ways with a thorough dam safety program. The dam safety training will refreshed the project staff of the skills needed to monitor the dam. The training will also refresh their motivation to keep watching and waiting for something we hope will never happen.



District Coming Events

Carlyle Lake

Oct. 20-21 - Haunted Trail

Nov. 5 - IDNR Youth Pheasant Hunt

Dec. 1 - Christmastown USA & Lighting of the Visitor Center

Wappapello Lake

Sept. 16-17 - 9th Annual Old Greenville Days

Nov. 25 - Dec. 25 - 8th Annual Festival of Light Christmas Auto Tour

Lake Shelbyville

Aug. 5 - Lithia Springs Chautauqua Living History Tour

Oct. 7-8 - Fall Colors Hike

Oct 28 - Lithia Springs Trail of Terror

TBA - Vitorian Splendor Light Festival

Lake

Aug. 12-13 - 15th Annual Salt River Folklife Festival

Sept. 2-3 - North American Bullriding Association World Championship Finals

Sept. 22 - Environmental Education Fair

Oct. 7-8 - Missouri Mule Days

TBA - An Adventure in Astronomy

Rend Lake

Aug. 5 - Rend Lake Beach Blast

Sept. 23 - Rend Lake Cleanup

Mark Twain

GOLFING

by Chuck Camillo

The District Golf League, where you can improve your lie in the rough if you can roughly prove that you are not lying, recently wrapped up the first half of the 18-match schedule. The golf season commenced with the annual Spring Golf Tournament on April 14th at the Quail Run Golf Course. The winners of the tournament are listed below.

The golf league is comprised of seven teams, with each team having eight players. Every week, team captains select four golfers to compete in a nine-hole match-play contest against another team. This format matches players with similar handicaps to compete against each other on a hole-by-hole basis,

(Continued on page 16)

Trimble (continued)

The intrepid explorers discovered a great deal of information to support the identification of the canyon as a place of great cultural significance to multiple tribes. By determining the canyon as a whole to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the BOR and National Park Service (NPS) would have a good mechanism for considering tribal concerns about effects to plants, animals, minerals, water and other resources, in that they would be character-defining features of a traditional cultural property. The group made numerous recommendations, including 1) the provision of information to the BOR on whether, and to what extent, dam operation may be adversely affecting the historic properties eligible for the

National Register of Historic Places; (2) that the NPS and BOR, in conjunction with the tribes, evaluate the condition of all historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects, and identify previous damage and ongoing potential damage, including visitor impact; and (3) expansion of direct tribal involvement in all aspects of the archaeological program, involving more active participation by tribes in the design and implementation of archaeological research designs and plans, field monitoring programs, and treatment of archaeological properties.



Ste. Genevieve Flood Control Project



(from left to right) Dean Surface, Jeff Derrick and Len Ross

A year ago this Fourth of July was Jeff Derrick's first day with the St. Louis District. It was actually a return to his homeland, where he was raised and still has family. Derrick calls Blytheville, Arkansas his hometown and today resides in Jackson, Missouri, only about an hour and a half from a visit with his mother and father. "I love this area, I really missed the trees when I lived in Texas. It is so much like my hometown" Derrick said.

Derrick was hired at the Southern Area Office in Jackson as the Resident Engineer for the Ste. Genevieve Flood Control Project and works at the resident engineer office there. "His knowledge about pumping sand or dredging was what made his experience stand out and he has done a great job for us," said Len Ross, Chief of Construction Branch. Derrick came from the Galveston District of the Corps of Engineers and was working at their Corpus Christi Area Office. Over 900,000 cubic yards of sand has been pumped, 350,000 cubic yards of clay borrowed, and 125,000 cubic yards of silt has gone into the levee for this project to date.

"Right now the project is nearing completion," Derrick said. We're about 70 percent complete with the levee, which is made of the sand that we are dredging out of the river. The pumping station is about 88 percent finished. We expect to be finished completely by the end of the calendar year, except for some relief wells that are being designed by Engineering Division now."

The scheduled completion of the project, barring any unexpected occurrences, and with good weather, is the end of this calendar year. Speaking of weather, Derrick commented that "the weather in Southern Missouri was just as hot as Corpus Christi but it doesn't seem to last as long. I was especially pleased with the middle of July this year, but I understand that it isn't necessarily this way every year." He felt that he was pretty lucky because all the time he was in Texas he was told that they were due another hurricane, but one didn't hit until a couple of weeks after he and his family had left Texas.

"Hurricane Brett wasn't all that bad and didn't do much damage, but after all the stories I heard while I was there, I was still glad we were gone".

When Derrick isn't supervising the construction of the \$40 million Flood Control Project in Ste. Genevieve he loves to play golf. He is also trying to teach his children, Miranda, 13, Wesley, 11 and Allison, 6 to play. I am a family man and I have been married for 15 years to a wonderful woman, my childhood sweetheart, Michele. All the time I was in Texas I had to put up with the guilt of not seeing my mom and having her grandkids so far away from her. We are all a lot happier here and Jackson is a great little town."



High water on the Mississippi River lapping against the erosion control matting installed by Luhr Bros. on the main levee just south of the east section of riprap protection



Middle Closure Structure completed by Goodwin Bros. Construction Company

Concrete construction nearing completion at the Pump Station/ Gravity Drain being built by Goodwin Bros.



Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad installing a track crossing near the Middle Closure Structure.





DISTRICT PICNIC

story by Dianna Bartels

pictures by Brian Kleber



This year's District Picnic was held at Forest Park on June 6th at the 1904 World's Fair Pavilion across from the beautiful 1904 World's Fair Bird Cage. The picnic was held on a Tuesday which enabled attendees to take advantage of the Zoo's 8:00 p.m. closing time. Over 300 people attended and all had a great time.

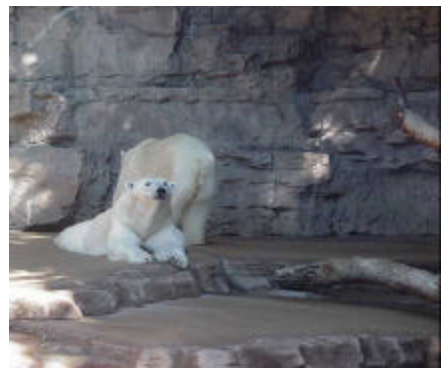
"The in-crowd" PM's Table



Carousing with the COL



Polars Bears admiring Corps visitors





Danger-Permit-Required-Confined Space-Do Not Enter

by Gary Groenemann

One reason that the St. Louis District field sites have become less hazardous within the past year is because of the full implementation of a confined space safety program.

What are confined spaces? Any space that has the following characteristics:

- * Limited openings for entry or exit (like tanks, vessels, boilers, vaults, or silos).
- * Large enough for workers to enter to perform work.
- * NOT designed for continuous human occupancy.

There are two kinds of confined spaces: permit-required and non-permit required.

Permit-required spaces may contain hazardous atmospheres, materials that could engulf an entrant (like grain in a silo), or any other recognized serious safety or health hazard. Non-permit confined spaces do NOT contain any hazard capable of causing serious harm. However, a non-permit space could become a permit-required space due to equipment or work done in the space (like welding or cutting steel).

As you roam about the District's field sites, some of the places you will see the new signs marking confined spaces are:

- * Lift station and sanitary sewer manholes at our lake projects.
- * Instrumentation vaults at our dams that house soil stress monitoring equipment
- * Manholes in workflats, barges, or vessel compartments.

- * Recesses at locks and dams for machinery like culvert valves.
- * Inside dam tainter gates and floating guidewall access manholes.

When you encounter a confined space sign, you **MUST** have the project manager's written permission to enter that space. The spaces are not to be entered without the specified equipment and required number of "observer" personnel on hand. In order to enter a confined space at any District facility, you must be trained in confined space entry. This training must be documented by your supervisor and is subject to annual renewal. If you have any questions on this subject, please contact your supervisor or the Safety & Occupational Health Office.



The photos show rescue training held at Mark Twain Lake this year and some of the equipment required for an entry into a sewer. This includes an air monitor (measures oxygen, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, and flammable vapors), climbing harnesses with rescue hoist, air blowers, and other personal protective equipment appropriate to the hazard.



SUMMER IN KENYA

by Jaynie Doerr



"A DREAM COME TRUE"

Jaynie Doerr, a park ranger at Rivers Project, will soon be able to fulfill one of her lifelong dreams. She has been chosen to participate in a course entitled "Community Wildlife Management" in Kenya. This is a summer course offered by the School for Field Studies (SFS). The main purpose of the facility is for students to investigate and experience ways to develop appropriate land use practices that capitalize on the capacity of indigenous species to maximize production from the environment without degrading it. The center is located in Nairobi, Kenya at Game Ranching Limited, a wildlife ranch located on the Athi-Kapiti Plains southeast of Nairobi. Jaynie has also recently been awarded a scholarship from the Center for International

Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and SFS to cover the cost of tuition and airfare.

The course is presented in an integrated case study format which will be driven primarily by the case study question: "What are the best management and tourism plans for the Kimana Community Wildlife Sanctuary". Together with ecological and biological considerations, emphasis will also be placed on economic, social, and management aspects of various options. Students will be challenged to analyze real resource issues and to combine the understanding of both biological and cultural environments. The results and management recommendations that emerge from SFS projects are intended to contribute directly to the process of conservation through sustainable wildlife management.

The area surrounding the Kimana Wildlife Sanctuary is threatened by the expanding cultivation to feed the local people.

This area is an important water and plant resource which serves the local population. It is also an area for the wildlife "spilling over" from the nearby Amboseli and Tsavo National Parks. SFS has been invited by the local community to develop a management plan for the sanctuary. The following specific objectives will help guide the investigation of the case study: 1) investigate the uses of the sanctuary by livestock, 2) count the large mammals within the sanctuary and plot their distribution, 3) completely map the boundaries, roads, and infrastructures, 4) plan a road network that can be used for tourism and administrative purposes, 5) identify high tourism areas and suggest ways as to how they can be developed to maximize tourism benefits, and 6) develop a management plan.

As a current master's student of animal behavior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, Jaynie believes that behavioral input is an essential tool in conservation issues. "Behavioral ecology has only recently been incorporated into conservation and management teams" adds Jaynie. "Studies focusing on ecosystem restoration and/or management, field recovery of endangered species, captive breeding, reintroduction programs, conservation genetics, reserve and landscape design, population viability analyses, and sustainable development have a great need for the implications resulting from behavioral studies". The case study that she will be involved in deals directly with ecotourism issues. During her stay in Kenya, Jaynie hopes to apply any and all of her training to help develop reasonable management recommendations or plans.



TIPS FROM THE RM TEAM

by Christiane Bonucchi

It's time to introduce the

ACCOMMODATION CHECK

Program. Some of you are familiar with this program but a lot of you are not and the program is a 'nice to have' option in the procurement and payment process.

What is an

Accommodation

Check? The accommodation check is a payment option that can be used when vendors do not accept the IMPAC purchase card. These checks are an extension of the VISA Purchase Card.

Purchases cannot exceed \$2,500.

Can we use

accommodation checks in lieu of the VISA (IMPAC) purchase card? **No.** The

accommodation check is intended for those rare occasions when vendors do not accept the IMPAC card.

Extensive efforts must be made to find vendors to ensure that we maximize the use of the IMPAC card prior to issuing accommodation checks.

Who can write

accommodation checks?

The St. Louis District has established eight checking accounts; one at each of the Lakes, one at Riverlands, one on the Dredge Potter and one in the District office.

What purchases can be paid for with **accommodation checks**? Here are some examples: supplies/services available for delivery within 15 days, COD charges for supplies; money orders for user fee remittances; UPS charges, county recorder fees; soil testing; membership fees;

registration fees for local

conferences; fees for state permits; interpretive outreach programs; emergency repairs/services, etc.. We were notified by higher headquarters in June 2000 that we can now use accommodation checks for **payment of utility bills if the utility company does not accept the IMPAC card**

Remember, the amount of the payment cannot exceed \$2,500.

What purchase cannot be paid for with accommodation checks?

Examples of prohibited purchases are: transportation passes or tokens; local travel expenses such as parking and mileage; travel advances; travel claims; awards; reimbursement to employees; rental of office space to include parking spaces; gas, oil and repair for fleet vehicles; etc..

Is there a fee for writing the checks? Yes, you must pay a fee 1.7 percent of the face value of the check (i.e. \$100 will cost \$101.70).

Other important points:

-You will need to know the exact amount of the check – no refunds, no change

-You will need to prepare a credit card PR&C for each payment made by accommodation check with a separate line item for the administrative fee.

-A PR&C will have to be prepared, approved and certified before issuing a check (no PR&C – no check)

-Before a check is issued, you must get a vendor tax ID number or social security number for tax purposes.

If you would like to learn more about the accommodation check program you may to contact Jackie Jones in RM-F or Kathy Souders in CT.

Hitchcock Volunteers

by Carla Dodd

Janice Hitchcock noticed some empty planters blocking off a frequent cut-through street in south St. Louis on her way to work. The next day, she planted sunflowers. In the following days, she brought soda bottles full of water to water them-and they still bloom there without fanfare. Those sunflowers aren't unlike the gardener who planted them. Hitchcock, a design engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, works without a lot of to-do, helping track hundreds of volunteers for Kingdom House in South St. Louis. Kingdom House is a social service agency of the United Methodist Church.

Hitchcock collects "timesheets" she designed and enters the information into a volunteer database.

Hitchcock also wrote job descriptions for volunteers and assisted in writing volunteer policy. "I like the idea that I could volunteer in the community that I live in," she said. "I enjoy helping people."

"Another thing that makes Janice valuable is she's extremely dependable and sets her schedule to be here," said Morse, Kingdom House Executive Director. Like those flowers she nurtures, the database does not shout for attention. Hitchcock simply does the work because the need is there.

HISTORY KEEPER

by Julie L. Erwin, Communications Specialist
Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Engineering (ORISE)

James P. Ferguson, an ORISE intern with the Archaeological Curation and Archives Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-St. Louis, has always loved history. As a data analyst, he spent many years developing databases and designing Web pages, and he didn't have many opportunities to pursue his passion. However, a few years ago he went to the University of Missouri-St. Louis and received his bachelor's degree in history, specializing in the 19th and 20th centuries. ORISE alerted him to the archival internship, and it has been a journey of learning and wonder ever since.

"Every project is exciting," Ferguson said. "Every day we discover something really interesting."

As an archivist, Ferguson gets to work with the documents and records associated with artifacts recovered during an archaeological investigation. The test of a true "science" is the ability to duplicate one's results. Because an archaeological excavation destroys the physical site, the only way to "duplicate" the results of such an investigation is through the documents generated during the project. While he still works on designing databases, it is with a historical perspective.



"Archival work has a direct relationship to history," Ferguson said. "Archivists are the keepers of history. If something has historical significance, it's in our professional purview."

Natalie Drew, Ferguson's mentor and team leader, views him as a treasure to the organization. Although she has worked with several very capable interns before through the ORISE program, she says Ferguson remains the most enthusiastic.

"He approaches each project with overbounding energy and interest," Drew said. "The man is truly dedicated to the pursuit of the study of history."

Through his internship, Ferguson has had many brushes with history, from "live" Civil War cannonballs to a "papoose carrying type artifact" that was eight thousand years old. One of the first projects he was with was the Corps Condition Assessment Program (CCAP), which assessed the archaeological collections of every federal installation.

The team then recommended the best ways to preserve the artifacts and make them more accessible to the public. Ferguson recalls it as the most encompassing experience, yet also the most disheartening.

"It became clear that many of the most interesting and historically valuable cultural treasures were being lost to the ravages of time and decay," Ferguson said. "It's like so much else will be lost forever if not preserved properly."

Not only does Ferguson process archaeological associated documentation, he also discovers how people in the past lived. One project involved the rehabilitation of more than 50 separate collections on the Ft. Benning, Ga., military base. Here, Ferguson and his colleagues investigated "Yuchi Town"—a Native American village—and discovered more information on the tribe's homes, customs, language, and affiliation with other southeastern tribes. He also dealt with settler and Native American interactions while processing the collections at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

"I have a renewed respect and appreciation for the Wanapum, Nisqually, and Yakima Indians thanks to these documents and artifacts," he said.

(Continued on page 16)



To your health

Men are often shocked to find that they can develop breast cancer. Less than 1 percent of breast cancers occur in men, but men should report any change in their breasts to their doctors, particularly if there's a family history of breast cancer in female relatives.

Men often use the term "pecs," referring to the pectoral muscles of the chest, but they do have nipples, undeveloped milk ducts and small amounts of breast tissue. Ignoring the signs can be dangerous. Because men have so little breast tissue, tumors can quickly escape into the body. Once this happens, the chances of a cure drop dramatically.

Men should be especially vigilant if the women in their family have an inherited risk for breast cancer. The breast cancer genes that increase the risk of disease in women can also boost the risk in men. The [Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation](#) has additional information on male breast cancer.

Some physicians ignore the possibility of breast cancer in men, so men with suspicious symptoms, such as a breast lump or nipple discharge, may need to insist on being tested to be sure.

In their defense, primary care physicians may never expect to encounter a single case of breast cancer in their male patients, however, in the United States, 1,600 cases are expected this year. That's one case for every 165,000 men.



For more information visit their website at <http://www.breastcancerinfo.com>

MAJOR MERCER RETIRES

by Terrie Hatfield

Major Thomas E. Mercer retired from the U.S. Army after 23 years of distinguished service. He served as Cannon Crewman in Korea for a year, during which time he received an accelerated promotion. From June 1978 to June 1980, he was assigned duty as Nuclear Weapons Specialist in the 101st Infantry Division, aiding the unit during numerous Nuclear Weapons inspections. Promoted to Sergeant and assigned as HQ platoon Sergeant, he was responsible for the care and training of 25 subordinates. In May 1983, he was commissioned 2nd LT field Artillery and subsequently assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, Ft. Riley Ks as Fire Direction Officer, Platoon Leader and Bn S-4, where he successfully fielded the new Fire Direction computer, and received excellent ratings during several field evaluations. During Desert Storm and Desert Shield, he was responsible for planning and coordinating the

artillery fire to support the lead infantry battalion commander's tactical plan. As Battery Commander, his battery received best battery award and was selected to fire the Division's 21-gun salute during the Armed Forces Day parade.

From March 1994 to May 1997, while serving as Assistant Program Manager and Contracting Officer, he was instrumental in saving the government millions of dollars during contract planning, negotiations and administration. Major Mercer finished his career as a valued member of the St. Louis District team, serving a very effective tour as Chief, Contracting Division.

St. Louis District Engineer, Col. Michael Morrow presented Major Mercer with the Legion of Merit award. The citation states, "For exceptionally meritorious service as Contracting Army Engineer District, St. Louis, from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2000. Major Mercer's outstanding leadership, unwavering commitment to excellence and Customer service, ethics, and devotion to duty greatly enhanced

Major Mercer and his wife Margaret



the reputation of the District and contributed immeasurably to mission accomplishment. His leadership and technical expertise allowed him to reorganize and reinvigorate the Contracting Division. Major Mercer's exceptionally meritorious service reflects great credit upon him, the Field Artillery and the United States Army."

We wish Tom and his family the very best. He is a good man with a good code of ethics and we will miss him.



Retiree Review

Retirees met at the Salad Bowl 15 June, for the usual monthly good food and fellowship. Lew Sheuermann reported that Elmer Huizenga was recently diagnosed with bone cancer and will undergo 9-12 weeks of treatment. We wish Elmer the best and our prayers are with him. Charlie Denzel reported that he has begun Hospice volunteering which has, so far, been a very rewarding experience.

The Division golf tournament was cancelled because of a shortage of players. During a golf course conversation, Wally Feld reported that the District Engineer may attend the August luncheon. It would be nice to have a good turnout for this event, since we are told that this DE (Col Morrow) is someone we would enjoy meeting. We would be very interested in hearing his views on the future of the Saint Louis district.

Retiree luncheons are held on the third Thursday of each month, 11:00 a.m. at the Salad Bowl. Please mark your calendars, we'll see you there.

Golfing (continued)

with the lower handicap golfers giving strokes to the higher handicap golfers. In other words, "unlucky" golfers like Leonard Hopkins or Chuck Camillo can shoot seven strokes on a par-4 hole and still beat seasoned golfers like Jerry Schwalbe and Dennis Gilmore, even if the latter pair were to make par.

A forgotten stroke here and a foot wedge there proved to be the difference as the Waterboys, captained by John Boeckmann, won the title for the first half of the season by fending off a tough challenge by the John Dierker-led Lucky 7's. The Waterboys team, which includes Mel Baldus, Phil Brown, Chuck Camillo, Vernon Drewes, Bob Maxwell, Lou Scheuermann, and Jim Zerega, will compete in the playoffs later this fall.

The District Golf League is open to all current and retired District employees.

Spring Tournament Results:

Championship Flight

- 1st Place Don Sweeney/Bill Sutton
- 2nd Place Jerry Schwalbe/Paul Galey
- 3rd Place Mel Baldus/ Rich Mills

B Flight

- 1st Place Fred Bader/Mike Thompson
- 2nd Place Larry Wernle/Rich Pearce
- 3rd Place John Perulfi/ Bob Lutz

C Flight

- 1st Place Mike Houser/Lee Robinson
- 2nd Place Dan Marshal/Rich Sovar
- 3rd Place Hank Martin/Ken Corbin

History Keeper (continued)

Ferguson's future consists of more history. After just returning from a trip to the Florida State Museum of Natural History and the Kingsbay, Ga., submarine base where he assisted in collecting and transporting artifacts and their associated documentation, he has over 200 boxes of documents and items awaiting him.

"I can't wait to explore the vast amounts of history and cultural treasures," he said. "I get goose bumps just casually looking through the boxes." Drew also concurs that the opportunities provided to him by ORISE have only increased his dedication. "Not only has he been able to develop his skills within the study of history and the archival profession," she observed, "he has also had the opportunity to train in what we hope will be a new venue for professional archivists—archaeological investigations.

"[Ferguson] is in the thick of this growing professional cooperative effort, and both he and our organization are better for the association," she said.

Ferguson is also grateful to ORISE and the opportunities it has given him.

"It is only through the ORISE internship that I could have had this in-depth and all encompassing of an experience," Ferguson concluded. "I know of no other historian or archivist that has been allowed exposure to so much and such a variety of history and the cultural treasures that constitute who we are as Americans."

Editor's Note: "Established in 1946, ORAU is a consortium of 86 doctoral-gra universities. ORAU serves the government, academia, and the private sector in science and technology. A private, not-for-profit corporation, ORAU manages the for Science and Education (ORISE) for the U.S. Department of Energy. ORISE national and international programs in education, training, health, and the environment. As a consortium, ORAU carries out active programs with and for its members."

